



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of: **Tohru HIGASHI**

Group Art Unit: TBA

Serial No.: **10/682,299**

Examiner: TBA

Filed: **October 10, 2003**

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING SEMICONDUCTOR  
DEVICE**

Customer No.: **38834**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: November 10, 2003

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the document listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of the document is attached.

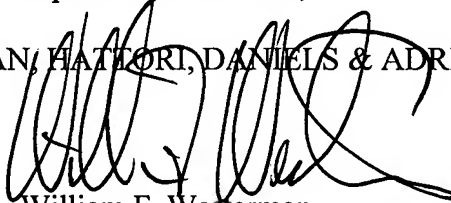
No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the above-captioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2866 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. F. Westerman', is written over the firm name.

William F. Westerman  
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WFW/meu

Atty. Docket No. **032030**  
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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449  
(1) Reference

NOV 10 2003

PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

**Complete if Known**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Application Number     | 10/682,299       |
| Filing Date            | October 10, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor   | Tohru HIGASHI    |
| Art Unit               | TBA              |
| Examiner Name          | TBA              |
| Attorney Docket Number | 032030           |

Sheet

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## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                          |   |                     |  |   |                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|---------------------|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials*    | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   | Publication<br>Date | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>Or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|                          |                          | Country Code <sup>3</sup> *Number <sup>4</sup> *Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) | MM-DD-YYYY          |  |   |                |
|                          |                          |   |                     |  |   |                |
|                          |                          | JP 7-167614   | 7/4/95              | Kenichiro etal                                     |   |                |
|                          |                          |   |                     |  |   |                |
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|                          |                          |   |                     |  |   |                |

|                       |  |                    |  |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Examiner<br>Signature |  | Date<br>Considered |  |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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